

by Bill Wallace

Recent reports on the congressional probe of Research West, Emeryville's shadowy right-wing detective agency, have confirmed that the agency's growth of a national network of anti-left intelligence organizations servicing the rise of what is sometimes called the "New Right."

In recent months the Barb has looked into the growth of several members of this network. The fruits of that investigation:

Research West -- the Emeryville detective agency which allegedly financed "black ops" against the United Auto Workers Union -- has become a San Francisco Examiner reporter and collected dossiers on nuclear activists (PG&E) in a collision course with Congress, and may soon be cited for contempt.

The possible citation stems from legislation launched late last year by U.S. Representative John Moss (Dem., Sacramento). Moss' House Select Committee on Intelligence is probing the spy-for-hire groups which PG&E and other power companies have been using to gather information on activists and power foes, and his subpoenaed intelligence records which Research West reportedly collected on the bakers of California's 1976 strike.

So far Patricia Atthow, Research West's President, has avoided being summoned to appear before Moss' House Select Committee on Intelligence. She has, however, agreed to appear before a San Francisco Examiner reporter, the well-known self help program for former activists, on the subject of Research West's private eyes investigation. Research West and found that some of the derogatory information printed in a series of Examiner "exposes" about Synanon had been created

Spies On A Collision Course With Congress

over to Examiner reporter Ed Montgomery, an operative for Research West and sometime stringer for the Berkeley Gazette.

Although the Synanon case was the first incident to land Research West's name in the media, it wasn't the first time

the company had conducted "research" on a controversial subject. Synanon's founders learned that the company was founded in the late forties chiefly to spy on labor radicals trying to organize information, letters, pickets and other activity. Name: Research West. Function: Research West functioned as an adjunct to the powerful Associated Farmers of California, an anti-left pressure group with a vested interest in preventing the unionization of farm labor.

Research West again became involved against agricultural workers in the Sixties when a group of corporate farmers in the Central Valley convinced the company to collect dossiers on the United Farm Workers (UFW). The point of the probe, to ascertain whether Communists had infiltrated the farm labor movement.

In 1970, the company received a pile of documents which later proved to be the body of a series of 17 political burglaries committed in the Bay Area by ex-Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Informants. Some of the information -- including documents on the UFW, the anti-war movement, and the Black Panthers -- came from leftists groups and individuals -- also found its way into the files of the FBI, the Army, private research groups and state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The files, the company claims, were apparently trafficked in stolen materials didn't surface until 1975, when Duncie gave himself up and outlined his "black bag files" on behalf of wealthy right-wing individuals.

A heavy right-wing bias has characterized Research West from its earliest days. The company's founder, a former Marine, a former army colonel who worked as a red-hunter for the Port of San Francisco, first made his mark as a political spy for the CIA during the 1950s by trying to hang a Communist smear on Longshoremen's Union leader Harry Bridges before he became a senator.

Among the earliest Western Research clients were PG&E and Pacific Telephone, which used their company's red-hunting files to ferret out suspected leftists on their payrolls. (The Barb revealed late last year that PG&E still uses Research West's political background check service to this day.)

Now the passing years and a change in management altered the company's right-wing political interests. After the firm's current owners (Koekkoek) sold the company in the Sixties, first surfacing during the 1970s' Moveon campaign, the rightists became the alleged subversives behind the college rebellion. Atthow filed a well-publicized complaint with the university at forcing UC to throw open its lists of student organizations to self-identified red-hunters like herself.

It is known about Research West's collecting of "black ops" files. In fact, the reason for the current congressional investigation has been based on the going after anti-nuclear activists.

Atthow, who has self-styledly denied that the target of a congressional investigation is "spying on nuclear power companies."

In 1976, CounterSpy magazine investigated Research West's anti-nuclear files and termed it "the tip of a rippling iceberg of spycraft made possible by the company's infiltration of state, government, and federal agencies, and partly to avoid lawsuits for slander, defamation of character and invasion of privacy, the Reeses chose to disseminate their files to the public and intelligence grapevine of police agencies."

Police departments all over the country received Research West's files, as detailed in a 1976 report by the New York Assembly's Office of Legislative Oversight. Those who receive the publications directed against the information by means of regional intelligence bureaus containing excerpts from the files.

Unbeknownst to the Reeses, the company had become involved with their intelligence service. Sheila Rees, now an aide to Representative Melvin Price, had been given an ID directly into the Congressional Record, thus rendering it a privileged communication under congressional rules, hence libel-proof.



David Bronson

Federally-Protected Propaganda

While Research West is facing the prospect of a congressional attack, another key link in the national right-wing influence network is about to attack -- precisely because of its relationship to an individual congressman.

Information Digest (ID), a privately-owned, right-wing political think tank, operates under the protective wing of U.S. Representative Larry McDonald (Dem., Georgia), a John Birch Society member who has been facing malpractice charges after he prescribed Letha to a man dying of cancer. ID is the right-wing arm of the Reeses, a pair of right-wing activists who had as radicals during the anti-war years, all the time collecting and publishing intelligence on the left and anti-war organizations in the pages of their restricted organ.

The Reeses also used a variety of fake identities and phonetic political front organizations in order to infiltrate left circles in New York and Washington, D.C., during the Seventies.

One other right-wing political organization, ID was not openly circulated. Part of its reason for staying low and partly to avoid lawsuits for slander, defamation of character and invasion of privacy, the Reeses chose to disseminate their files to the public and intelligence grapevine of police agencies.

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Recent reports in the media suggested that the Reeses had been given an ID to both the U.S. Postal authorities, former U.S. Senator Tim Wirth, and Senator Howard. For example, when "gatekeeper" dollars were being misused.

Other Bay Area news outlets have reported the same focus on the 1976 Nuclear Safeguards Initiative, a charge which Smith would neither confirm nor deny.

Danger From The Right SPIES, SPIES AND MORE SPIES



Janet Fries

Despite three years of almost non-stop spying, self-proclaimed political burglar David Bronson (picture) is no closer to forcing an official investigation of his own right-wing spying.

Bronson claims that he had been a "black ops" john against Bay Area peace activists and other leftists in a letter to the Barb in 1974. Since then he has reported his allegations dozens of times in press interviews, public statements and open meetings (see our "Debtors' Union," 1975).

More important, he has provided documentation which links the San Francisco Police Department, the FBI and the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency to his activities.

Despite a 1976 San Francisco court decision in Bronson's favor in his 1975 election campaign, San Francisco Police Officer Janet Fries has failed to move on the case. Bronson has petitioned S.P.D. Police Chief Charles Gain and California Governor Jerry Brown asking for a probe of the case as well, but so far neither has done anything about it.

Dirty Tricks In Your Own Home

From Bob Haldeman's fraudulent attempt to rig the 1972 presidential election to Ronald Reagan's more grandiose schemes to disrupt the 1976 campaign, the right has developed a long-age-old device to forward its cause -- the political dirty trick. Now the Barb has learned that the right is still perfecting the Panama Canal trick, the rightwing may have once again discovered its old-second-cousin.

Concerned about San Francisco's Hans Mink, Last October, Mink opened his mail and discovered a postcard with his name signed to it urging the U.S. Senate to "reject" the recently signed Carter's treaty to give away our Panama Canal. The card had been sent by the right-wing American Mailing List Co., the Vigueirie Publishing Co., Vigueirie's own bankroll son of one of most successful campaigns the right has launched in recent years. His beneficiaries have included Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, the Stop ERA "movement," and the Conservative Caucus, a right-wing educational foundation.

Most of the information available on Vigueirie's right-wing fund-raising efforts stems from an intensive investigation of New Right publications. Santa Gregorio Lewis, editor of the conservative national gay newsmagazine, "The Advocate," has written a scathing exposé of the Stop ERA "movement" and the Conservative Caucus.

In a series of muckraking articles the Advocate has been publishing last June, Gregory Lewis has:

"Exposed the links between Vigueirie's fund-raising efforts and a wide spectrum of right-wing lobby, foundations, committees and foundations."

"Traced the connections between Vigueirie and some of the most powerful conservative office-holders in the land including U.S. Representative Larry McDonald (Dem., Georgia), former U.S. Senator Tim Wirth, and Senator Howard and California State Senator H.L. Richardson (Rep., Orange County)."

"Unveiled the secret recruitment of a recipient political party, the National Organization of State Conservative Parties (NOSCOP), masquerading as a political 'obby' and financial arm of the right."

--Paul Grabowicz

Police Surveillance Is Our Most Important Product

U nlike Information Digest and Research West, which are primarily to collect intelligence on left-wing groups and individuals, Anacapa Sciences Incorporated, a Santa Barbara company, teaches police officers and private corporations how to set up their own intelligence units.

Anacapa Sciences was founded in 1968, "primarily," as its founder, Charles E. "Chuck" Denehy, claims, to collect scientific intelligence for corporations.

"To engage in the specific business of furnishing scientific consulting services, (and) rendering research, development, and consulting services in the behavioral, physical and engineering sciences to individual organizations and government units."

Since then it has carried out literally dozens of contracts, many -- if not most -- of them based on police intelligence tasks.

The company has focused much of its activity on training cops -- and some security officers for private firms -- how to collect intelligence on leftists.

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In addition to its training programs, Anacapa Sciences has developed a "counterintelligence module" designed for its next big assignment: conducting a study of "stratified data at the state university, state college, community college, and private levels" to "analyze their experience in campus disorders," according to the "Strategic Crisis Unit," which originated the anti-nuclear Abalone Alliance last year (see Barb, Feb. 24) and helped UC Santa Barbara's police de-

partment work on a murder case.

According to Anacapa, its "primary products" of undercover operations include a curriculum composed outlining the indicators of civil unrest and dissidence, and the development and conduct of a practical training program which will give an opportunity to practice analysis and prediction of terrorist activities." In plain English, they put together the Drug Enforcement Administration's criminal intelligence course, created drug surveillance operations, and trained drug enforcement agents.

According to Denehy, the company denies that its staff was selected because of their political attitudes or expertise in intelligence operations.

"They have diverse backgrounds, in one case, a scientist or a 'hacker,' he says, "Psychology, engineering and so forth."

But in fact, it appears the primary product of Anacapa Sciences is "intelligence training programs" for law enforcement agencies.

For example, Walter Harter, once the company's "primary scientist," formerly worked for the CIA-linked Strategic Intelligence Agency (SIA), the California State Department of Justice, the Dade County, Florida Department of Public Safety, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas State Police.

Anacapa's "training module" developed by Denehy is designed to teach agents of the law how to deal with subversives in one of three categories: "radical leftists who have proven effective in various situations," "explosives weapons, terrorist organizations," and "exploitation of legal police methods" (as opposed to illegal police methods).

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uses "intelligence training programs" which include a curriculum composed outlining the indicators of civil unrest and dissidence, and the development and conduct of a practical training program which will give an opportunity to practice analysis and prediction of terrorist activities." In plain English, they put together the Drug Enforcement Administration's criminal intelligence course, created drug surveillance operations, and trained drug enforcement agents.

With credentials like these, it's little wonder that Anacapa's intelligence training programs tend to lead to such success. For example, the company has been "proven effective in various situations," according to its promotional literature.

"Explosives weapons, terrorist organizations," and "exploitation of legal police methods" (as opposed to illegal police methods).

Anacapa Science even discusses means of "dealing with groups operating under the guise of a legitimate organization, such as the American Revolutionaries," according to its promotional literature.

For example, the training module developed by this gang-ho anti-leftist philosophy works in the field, the intelligence unit and Anacapa Sciences set up the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, the Santa Barbara Police Department and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.

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A if the intelligence on radicals which the New Right can collect is useless without the funds and organization to put it into action. This is where the murky money empire of Richard A. Vigueirie comes into play.

Vigueirie is the public relations and fund-raising arm of the right-wing political dirty trick.

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"Revealed a campaign by politicians linked to Vigueirie to smear the National Lawyers Guild and prevent it from re-

ceiving money under the federally-funded Legal Services Corporation.

The Vigueirie political network is also solidly hooked into the world of the New Right. One of what the Advocate refers to as "stable of Vigueirie advisors," is associated with John and Harriet Harmer, owners of the company that made public use of some of ID's best-known dirty trick reports.

John Harmer, another Vigueirie advisor, is also associated with conservative Senator Jerome Duccio. Moreover, some of the information used in Vigueirie's publications has been derived from the conservative military American Security Council (see Barb, April 1, 1977) and the

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Undercover cops: Anacapa Sciences has specialized in training them how to spy on the left. (See story upper right.)